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Eléments de la Théorie des Probabilités. By EMILE BOREL. (Paris: A. Hermann et Fils, 1909. Pp. vii, 191. 6 fr.)

The increasing importance of this branch of mathematics in problems of physics, biology and economics justifies the publication of this compact exposition of certain phases of the theory of probabilities. The book, however, is not a systematic treatise. It is intended simply to set forth by means of well-chosen and sometimes interesting illustrations some of the essential results and main methods involved, eliminating the technical discussions and features which are not essential to a comprehension of the subject.

The three sections of the book are devoted respectively to Discontinuous Probabilities, Continuous or Geometrical Probabilities, and Probability of Causes. Problems of the first group are illustrated by the familiar examples of tossing "heads" or "tails" with a coin, and of drawing white or black balls from an urn. For example: Are the chances of winning better by betting that "heads" will come at least five times out of seven tosses, or by betting that "heads" will come at least six times out of nine tosses? An urn contains n balls, of which number a are white; if three balls are drawn out successively, what are the chances that all three will be white?

The following are the most important chapters of the book:

Formulae of Approximation; the Law of Large Numbers and the Law of Variability; Statistical Probabilities; and The Determination of Causes. The fifty problems which the book contains are designed to make clear the established formulae connected with these subjects.

C. W. A. V.

Yale University.

Essais de Statistique Morale. II. Le Divorce et la Séparation de Corps. By CAMILLE JACQUART. (Brussels: A. Dewit, 1909. Pp. 165.)

The author of this treatise has given us a scientific statistical essay on divorce. The work is valuable not only for its skillful presentation and analysis of the official statistics of Belgium but also for its wise selection and use of the statistics of other countries.